

Staff Notes and Reads

The Key to Keeping the Lights on: Artificial Intelligence, Power companies are turning to AI, drones and sensors to curtail outages, save money and help operate an increasingly complex electricity grid, The Wall Street Journal, and

The statistical foundations of machine learning, Medium, are articles shared by Greg Bone.

Lane Report articles, *New Solar Array making Homegrown Electricity for Maker's Mark*, and *Bluegrass Sustainability Summit aims to shift regional culture* are shared by Eileen Hardy.

ChargePoint commits \$1B to expand EV charging as Ocasio-Cortez, others unveil bills for a national network, UTILITY DIVE article is shared by Lona Brewer

Kenya Stump shares: *Wind turbine blades can't be recycled, so they're piling up in landfills*, Companies are searching for ways to deal with the tens of thousands of blades that have reached the end of their lives, Bloomberg Green;

Eastern Kentucky has been Underwater, but You Probably Didn't Notice the Atlantic *An out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality can take hold when people lose their connection to nature*;

UTILITY DIVE .com, *Slowed pay-off from billions in AMI investment puts the technology's future in doubt*, Regulators have approved billions for utilities to roll out advanced metering infrastructure but they expected new customer and system benefits, not just lower utility operation costs; and

UTILITY DIVE.com, *Beating China at the lithium game-- can the U.S. secure supplies to meet its renewables targets?*

About Us



We believe in our [mission](#) to utilize Kentucky's energy resources for the betterment of the Commonwealth while protecting and improving our environment.

Volkswagen Settlement Plan Presented

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear has announced a new plan to spend the \$20.3 million allocated to Kentucky under the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust. Governor Beshear's proposal would allocate 75 percent of the funding to replace an aging school bus in every county in Kentucky with a cleaner-emissions vehicle. Gov. Beshear's plan would also put 20 percent of the funds toward federal transit to provide cleaner transit buses in parts of Kentucky not meeting federal air quality standards. [Read more...](#)

Partner Spotlight



The Office of Energy Policy and the University of Kentucky Center for Applied Energy Research (CAER), in partnership with GreenpowerUSA, announce [STEM Education through Electric Vehicles](#), a new program to advance science, technology, engineering and math in Kentucky's schools. [Learn more](#) about this creative opportunity for students to design, construct and competitively race a one-person electric vehicle.

Viz of the Month



Energy Disruptions

The [map](#) is intended to help identify potential threats to energy infrastructure from significant storms and other weather events, flooding, and wildfires. Use the Layers/Legends panel to access all the available map layers.

OEP Out and About

Through education, outreach and professional development, OEP staff are better equipped to understand and assist stakeholders on how energy impacts daily lives. Here's what we've been working on this month.

NASEO, the National Association of State Energy Officials is a non-profit association for governor-designated energy officials. NASEO facilitates peer learning, serves as a resource for and about state energy offices, and advocates the interests of the state energy offices to Congress and federal agencies. Kentucky's Office of Energy Policy staff members Greg Bone and Amanda LeMaster attended the Feb. 12 [NASEO Microgrid Workgroup](#) meeting in Washington D.C., and April 1-2, Kenya Stump, Lona Brewer and Amanda Lemaster will participate in the [NASEO Southeast Regional](#) meeting in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cybersecurity, the future of coal and natural gas, sustainability practices for large power users and the operation of regional transmission organizations are topics to be presented during the [Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers 2020 Energy Conference, March 12](#) in Lexington. OEP staff Lona Brewer and Eileen Hardy are attending; registration is accepted through March 9.

Lona Brewer is attending the [Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition](#) members meeting on March 25. KCFC works with vehicle fleets, fuel providers, community leaders, and other stakeholders to save energy and promote the use of domestic fuels and advanced vehicle technologies in transportation.

February 10, Eileen Hardy welcomed new students to the 11-week [Kentucky Housing Corporation Energy Efficiency Training program](#). The OEP grant-funded project fills a need for BPI certified Quality Control Inspectors for energy weatherization projects in low-income homes.

Lona Brewer attended the Bluegrass Sustainability Summit February 4, hosted by [Bluegrass Greensource](#) at the University of Kentucky new Gatton Student Center, Lexington.

Kenya Stump, Lona Brewer, Amanda LeMaster, and Eileen Hardy attended the [Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Energy Management Conference](#) January 30-31. Now in its ninth year, the conference presented updates relating to the forces affecting energy supplies and prices, regulations, and evolving economic trends.



Energy Efficiency for Disaster Resilience

Protecting the health and safety of Kentucky's citizens is a priority for the Office of Energy Policy. Through education and outreach, the OEP and the American Concrete Institute's Kentucky Chapter are educating designers and builders about the value of Insulated Concrete Form (ICF) structures. ICF materials maximize energy efficiency and safety to building occupants. On January 29, more than 70 architects, engineers, local government and school officials joined representatives of the building industry for a one day training event in Louisville. A The next workshop is scheduled for March 25 in Winchester, Ky. To learn more about this event or other OEP sponsored training events, contact Amanda.LeMaster@ky.gov.

U.S. EIA Winter Heating Fuels Update

[Winter Heating Fuels](#) statistics are now available for week ending February 21, 2020. The statistics include regional inventory totals for propane, heating oil, and natural gas, as well as weekly retail and wholesale prices as of February 24, 2020, for propane and heating oil for selected states.

OEP Raises Awareness of [StormReady](#) Sites

OEP supports many energy activities across the Commonwealth that touch our schools, homes, businesses, communities and government facilities.

During an emergency or disaster incident, the Energy and Environment Cabinet has responsibility as established by the Kentucky Emergency Operations Plan for Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12. ESF 12 outlines procedures for coordinating and communicating energy issues during an emergency. The Commonwealth Energy Assurance Plan describes the existing energy systems in the state and their relation to [Emergency Management in Kentucky](#).

To help citizens be better prepare for emergencies or disasters such as weather-related events, OEP supports advanced planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives.

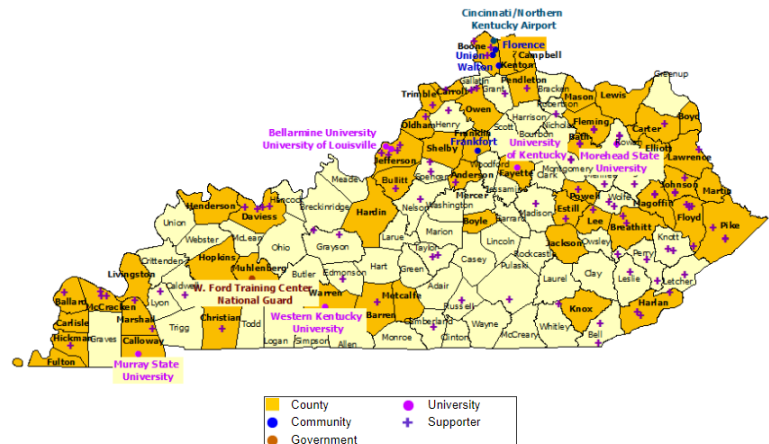
StormReady® in Kentucky

[Weather.gov](#) > [StormReady](#) > StormReady® in Kentucky

StormReady
National Program

68 Sites:

54 Counties, 4 Communities
3 Government, 6 Universities, 1 Commercial
87 StormReady Supporters
[Back to StormReady Communities](#)
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[Weather-Ready Nation](#) is about preparing for your community's increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and water events. You can make sure your community is **StormReady®**.

StormReady is a program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service to help arm communities with the communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property--before, during, and after the event. StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen local safety programs. [Learn more...](#)

Learning Opportunities

Kentucky Clean Fuels Coalition Member Meeting

[Register here](#) for the March 25, 2020 member meeting at the University of Louisville. The KCFC connects providers and consumers of fuels across Kentucky with the best information and education available about clean transportation technologies.

Kentucky OEP Hosts “Energy Efficiency for Disaster Resilience” Workforce Training, March 25, 2020

Unpredictable and potentially devastating weather events demonstrate that disaster and calamity are no longer events that are few-and-far between. To help citizens reduce energy and lessen structural damage caused by natural disasters, the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet announces “Energy Efficiency for Disaster Resilience” on March 25, 2020, at the Hampton Inn, Winchester, Kentucky. There is no charge to attend, however advance registration is required. [Register here](#).

Kentucky Chamber Annual Environmental Conference - March 19-20

- Registration is open for the 18th Annual Kentucky Environmental Conference, Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Spa, Lexington. Environmental directors, managers and staff, engineers, facility compliance professionals, attorneys and consultants are encouraged to attend. [Contact](#)

3 New tools for Advancing Energy Affordability in Low-Income Communities

Better Buildings' Clean Energy for Low Income Communities Accelerator (CELICA) is breaking down barriers that low income communities face for implementing energy efficient and renewable energy technologies.

Low income households carry a disproportionate energy burden -- the share of annual household income that is used to pay annual energy bills. According to the U.S. Census, the average energy burden for low income households is 8.2%—three times as high as for non-low-income households. [Read more.](#)



New LEAD Tool Features and Upcoming March Webinar

Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the **Low-income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD) Tool** was updated with new features and capabilities based on stakeholder feedback, including: **Search Capability:** a more robust search box for all data in the LEAD Tool allowing users to easily see names of different geographies and switch between maps.

Customized Geographies: ability to select and combine geographic areas (state, county, and census tracts) into one customized group, so users can see the totals for their customized geographies (e.g., specific service territories).

County Line Visibility: County outlines have been added to the census tract map view so users can more readily see in which county census tracts belong. Learn about the new features and capabilities in a live demonstration webinar on Wednesday, March 4, 3-4 PM (ET). [Register.](#)

State and Local Energy (SLOPE) Platform Beta: Leveling the SLOPE on Achieving your Clean Energy Goals Free Webinar

Register is open for a free webinar as an introduction to State and Local Planning for Energy (SLOPE) Platform Beta components that include electricity and natural gas consumption, energy efficiency potential, renewable energy technical generation potential, levelized cost of energy, and much more. the U.S. Department of Energy and National Renewable Energy Laboratory will demonstrate example use cases that will allow state and local governments to maximize the utility of SLOPE's outputs. [Register here.](#)

Improving Resiliency by Reducing Extreme Weather Risks

By Ben Bolton, Energy Programs Administrator, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Office of Energy Programs

Following serious floods last spring for much of the country, businesses are still susceptible to extreme weather events. There are several steps industries can take to improve resiliency and reduce risks associated with extreme weather and other natural phenomena. [Read more.](#)

Building Science Conference & Expo March 17-18, 2020

Registration open for the **2020 Building Science Conference & Expo**, March 17-18 in Knoxville, TN. The Conference provides world-class CEU training and certification opportunities while offering new sessions including commercial building science, workforce



including commercial building science, workforce development initiatives, serving hard-to-reach customers, multifamily housing energy efficiency programs, and more!

[Learn more...](#)

Conference
and Expo

www.buildingscienceconference.com

March Training Opportunities with ENERGY STAR



ENERGY STAR for Commercial Buildings and Industrial Plants

Improve your skills by registering for a no-cost webinar! Click on the titles below to go directly to the webinar description and registration link.

Industry focus

- [Benchmarking Water & Wastewater Treatment Plants in Portfolio Manager](#)

Water focus

- [Fix a Leak with WaterSense and Beat Water Waste](#)

Regularly scheduled webinars

- [Ask the Expert](#)
- [Portfolio Manager 101](#)
- [Portfolio Manager 201](#)
- [Portfolio Manager 301](#)
- [Verifying the ENERGY STAR Application](#)

Video

Warren County School District's Jennings Creek Recognized for Energy Efficiency



Jennings Creek
Elementary School

The Kentucky Office of Energy Policy congratulates Jennings Creek Elementary for being recognized by the Kentucky School Boards Association as the state's most energy efficient school. The OEP is proud to support Warren County Public Schools achieve their energy goals through the \$375,000 TVA Settlement Grant awarded in 2018. The OEP grant funds supported the purchase and installation of 520 kW of solar panels across six locations, and were leveraged to enhance a \$30,324,085 Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract enabling the district to implement energy savings measures district wide. We recognize energy efficiency savings such as those realized by Warren County are achieved through the combined efforts of innovative school and teacher leadership, energy management planning, and a dynamic student body.



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Energy & Environment Cabinet
Office of Energy Policy Newsletter, July 2019
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